

**Marine Resources Committee
Town of Bar Harbor
Minutes from Wednesday, November 20, 2013 draft**

Call to Order: 4:00 pm.

Committee Members Present: Chris Petersen (Chair), Megan McOsker (secretary), Scott Swann, Natalie Springuel, Matt Gerald

Town staff: Charlie Phippen (Harbormaster)

Attending: David Dunton, Joshua Hodgkins, Richard Taylor, Theo De Koning, Josh Kane, Teresa Bompczyk, Crystal Bouley, Gabriel Feinman-Riordan, Paola Idrovo, Christina Longstreeth, Christina Longstreeth,, Hannah Annis (DMR biologist)

Approval of minutes: October, 2013 minutes approved.

Adoption of agenda: Agenda approved with addition of one item.

Old Business:

- A. Water Quality testing and cruise ship monitoring. Committee finalized recommendations. Tests will be aligned with what the EPA requires (in compliance with the Clean Water Act) of the cruise ship industry, with the addition of metals and evidence of oily pollution. The committee's understanding is that although there are federal and state regulations governing cruise ship discharge (under the Clean Water Act) there is little to no compliance monitoring.
- The committee suggests testing for the following: BOD, fecal coliform, suspended solids, pH and total residual chlorine. E. coli, total phosphorus, ammonia, nitrate/nitrite, Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN), visible sheen and metals (total or copper, nickel, zinc) –

Natalie and Megan will finish up the recommendations for the RFP and send to Harbormaster.

- B. Expanding the definition of shellfish in Bar Harbor
- Towns have some leeway on their definition of shellfish. Intertidal shellfish resources can include soft shell (*Mya arenaria*), surf /hen clams, razor clams, quahogs, and oysters. (not mussels- they are excluded from shellfish for this purpose.)

On the western side of Bar Harbor we have a resource of quahogs/cherrystones: (*Mercenaria mercenaria*). Currently, a commercial

harvester can harvest those resources with a state license and a recreational harvester can harvest without a license. If we did manage them, harvesters would need a town license. If we decide to manage them, this would potentially exclude commercial harvesters from other towns.

The locations with potentially significant resources that may be impacted by this:
Clark Cove: significant recreational use; mostly hen clams- some razor, some *Mercenaria*
Northwest Cove:
Northwest beach (near KOA campground)

The committee, after some discussion, decided to proceed with data collection on the pertinent areas, and will schedule spring censuses

C. Intertidal Lease proposal

Matt Gerald reports on his intertidal lease proposal. The proposed 2 LPAs off of his land will be moved to a subtidal location. The current 4 LPA are in question. The practice of removing the oysters and grading them and returning them is not an approved practice. They are working within the regulatory framework of the Maine DMR.

New Business:

A. Fall surveys and other clamflat work

College of the Atlantic students Teresa Bompczyk, Crystal Bouley, Gabriel Feinman-Riordan, Paola Idrovo, Christina Longstreeth (working with Chris Petersen) went over surveys of Hadley Point East, West and Far West

There is a trend of lowering density at Hadley Point E. CP does not think that this is due to over harvesting. It does seem to be due to low recruitment.

Theo De Koning mentioned that recruitment of mussel seed seems to be late this year with apparently very low recruitment but it is starting now. Also- in Holland, the seed was late and low this year. Last year, both Europe and Maine experienced high seed set.

Hannah reports that the consensus along the coast is that small clams are far and few between- this is not a local phenomenon.

Hannah also reports that soft mud seems to be more affected by green crab population- crabs will get small clams in those areas first. Green crabs are an apparent factor in small clam survival.

Scott asks if there haven been enclosures, exclosures, for green crabs? Freeport is trying to do this. Predator nets have been employed and tested- but they seem to be ineffective. Green crabs get under them easily.

Hannah said that there seems to be some interest in developing markets for green crabs. Everyone sees a great number of green crabs. Theo does note that compared to last year green crabs are down in the subtidal area near Hadley Point E/ F Bay

The committee may have representation at the Green Crab Summit on Dec 16 in Orono.

COA students also reported out on the Juvenile Clam and Green Crab Census at Hadley Point ;

Very few green crabs found on Oct 4 and Nov 2. Preliminary data from August surveys done with the State data collection effort indicate significant green crab presence on the Maine coast.

The committee moved to attach the clam census and green crab reports to the minutes.

Meeting adjourned 506 pm

Next meeting scheduled Wednesday, January 15, 2014